

Contractors angry over damaged roads

MBARARA

By **Abdulkarim Ssengendo**

Mbarara Municipal council leadership has been challenged to ensure there is effectiveness of enforcement of traffic laws and regulations in the town to prevent the newly constructed roads from the alarming rate of destruction, especially damages caused on the walkways.

The call was made by Eng. Joseph Musoke, the technical director of Abubaker Technical Services and General Supplies Limited, who was concerned that the damages on the roads, if not prevented, will not only cause huge economic losses to the municipality, but contribute to road traffic accidents, resulting into death.

Musoke also challenged leaders in the area to use all available platforms to encourage people, especially those who own big and heavy vehicles, such as buses and trailers, to embrace the infrastructural projects being undertaken by the Government, to unlock the productive potential of the town and improve the livelihood of the people.

Musoke's comments followed recent reports by officials from the Inspectorate of Government and Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority (PPDA), who noted that there were some defects on the new roads and recommended immediate correction.

The team was led by Lydia Kwesiga,



A team from the Inspectorate of Government and the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets in looking at defects on the new roads in Mbarara. Photo by Abdulkarim Ssengendo

the regional manager of PPDA, who attributed the defects on the laxity within the municipality supervisory team.

The roads, which included Buremba, Akiiki Nyabongo, Constantino Lobo and McAllister, were constructed under Uganda

Support to Municipality Infrastructure Development (USIMID) programme, using sh18b the Government secured from the World Bank to develop 14 municipalities that included Mbarara.

"The damages on these roads will not end if people do not refrain from parking and mounting their vehicles

on the sidewalks," Musoke said.

He explained that the sidewalks on any road are not designed for vehicles. In Mbarara town, people have consistently used them for parking their vehicles, including buses and heavy trucks.

"The slabs on the sidewalks

ON THE GROUND

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are designed for foot traffic, and I challenge Mbarara Municipal council to ensure these facilities are not misused," he said.

Musoke also advised municipal authorities where USIMID projects are being implemented to invest in putting up short poles on all the new roads to prevent vehicles from mounting on sidewalks.

He also cautioned people against building on natural water courses, warning that deadly floods could occur, as a result.

Robert Kakyebi, the mayor of Mbarara Municipality, said they have already started fining people mounting their vehicles on the sidewalks.

He said they would also start radio programmes to sensitise the general public on the dangers of their actions.